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## AN ANALYSIS OF THE AGE AND EDUCATION OF THE SS FÜHRERKORPS

1925 - 1939 (1)

Gunnar C. Boehnert<sup>+</sup>

Based on a sample of 5250 SS officer personell files the age and educational composition of the officer corps of the various branches of the SS is analyzed over time. Especially the "Machtergreifung" was the most influential event affecting the joining pattern. Before this event the less educated and younger people joined the SS officer corps. After the seizure of power people from higher social strata also joined the elite formation of National Socialism. Based on this study, one can no longer view the SS officer corps as a homogeneous group, but must accept the fact that different types (age, education) of men were attracted to different branches at different stages in the evolution of the SS.

In the voluminous literature that has been published on the SS since 1945, few authors have devoted more than a few pages to an analysis of the socio-economic background of the men who wore the black uniform with the silver runes, of which even Himmler said,

"Ich weiss, dass es manche Leute in Deutschland gibt, denen es schlecht wird, wenn sie diesen schwarzen Rock sehen. Wir haben Verständnis dafür und erwarten nicht, dass wir von allzu vielen geliebt werden". (2)

Whenever an attempt was made in the early literature to explore the background of the SS men, the idea that all who wore the black uniform were sadistic social misfits was widely expressed. Even Eugen Kogon in his "Der SS-Staat" wrote about the social origin of the SS men:

"Eine Untersuchung der Herkunft der SS Angehörigen ergibt fast in jedem einzelnen Fall, dass es sich bei Ihnen um Tiefunzufriedene, Nichterfolgreiche, durch irgendwelche Umstände zurückgesetzte, um Minderbegabte aller Art und häufig genug um sozial gescheiterte Existenzen handelte". (3)

This picture of the typical SS member outlined by Kogon "... galt von den Begründern Himmler und Heydrich ... bis zu den Stammanschaften der Totenkopfverbände". (4) Kogon completed his picture by saying:

"Aus dem deutschen Volke, der NSDAP und den Berufsmilitärs oder Neigungssoldaten haben sich im Laufe der Zeit über die Allgemeine SS und die Verfügungstruppen hauptsächlich jene in dem Schwarzen Korps freiwillig zusammengefunden, die gleiche oder ähnliche seelische und soziale Merkmale aufweisen". (5)

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Almost a decade elapsed before a political scientist, Erminhild Neusüss-Hunkel, completed her study on "Die SS". In her study a more differentiated picture of the SS man was presented. Neusüss-Hunkel recognized the problem of dealing with the SS in so far as "... eine eindeutige Beurteilung sämtlicher Angehörigen der Waffen-SS ebenso wenig möglich ist wie bei der Gesamtmitgliedschaft der SS". (6) She recognized the multi-faceted aspect of the SS, and analysed the social composition of that organization by looking at the membership of the various branches.

A few years later an American historian, Robert Koehl, analysed the social composition of the SS from yet another point of view. He was of the opinion "... that the SS was quite different in different periods of its evolution, in its many branches and its different recruits". (7) While Koehl's approach of looking at the SS in chronological terms was a significant step forward, his assertion that before 1933 "... came the bruisers and misfits" and that after the Machtergreifung joined "... the police ... and high bureaucrats" (8) was too general.

Even Heinz Höhne in his more recent attempt to analyse the social fabric of the SS in terms of the branches and chronology, talks in categories which are too broad when he says:

"In die SS strömten Schichten, die das soziale Bild der Schutzstaffel radikal änderten. Bis 1933 hatten drei Typs die SS bestimmt: der ehemalige Freikorpsmann, der Intelligenzler mit der durch die Wirtschaftskrise abgebrochenen Berufsausbildung, und der kleinbürgerliche Parteiveteran". (9)

Höhne was of the opinion that after 1933 "... folgten die Söhne des mittleren Bürgertums ... Menschen des 20. Jahrhunderts, in der Mehrzahl Intelligenzler". (10)

In his analysis of the various branches of the SS Höhne agreed with most of the previously expressed opinions. Thus, he agreed with Neusüss-Hunkel who stated that the SS attracted primarily the highly intelligent yet unscrupulous Akademiker who wanted to get ahead. (11) In his analysis of the Totenkopfverbände Höhne agreed with Benedict Kautsky who saw in the concentration camp guards "... den stumpfsten und faulsten Teil der Bevölkerung". (12) Höhne also agreed with the generally held view of the Verfügungstruppe, referred to by Himmler as "... den schönsten Teil, den ich in der SS habe" (13), as a group of very young "... starry-eyed and fanatical" (14), men, while the Allgemeine SS was popular with "... die gute Gesellschaft". (15)

#### DATA AND METHODS

With the increased use of quantification as an historical research method, more precise studies dealing with the social composition of parties, organizations, and formations have become available. The quantitative study of the SS Officer Corps between 1925 and 1939, is based on the information found in the SS officer personnel files housed in the Berlin Document Center (BDC). Since the personnel files at the Document Center pertain to officers who served in the SS between 1925 and 1945, certain criteria for selection had to be implemented. The two selection criteria used were:

1.) an officer had to be a member of the SS and must have reached commissioned rank prior to 1 September 1939, and, 2.) the personnel file had to provide an answer to every question on the specially prepared questionnaire outlined below. The reason for the second selection criterion was, that this writer was unwilling to use a missing data category. If the personnel file failed to answer one or more questions then the Document Center's RuSHA (Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt) files were consulted. (16) If, after this procedure there were still missing data, the case was rejected. This method of sampling did not appear to affect the sample adversely, as it became clear all too soon there had been no conscious effort on the part of the SS-Personalhauptamt or by the American archivists to remove vital bits of information from any of the files. This is borne out by the fact that the files of such prominent officers as Reinhard Heydrich, Theodor Eicke, and Otto Ohlendorf contained an abundance of personal information, while the files of an unknown Untersturmführer sometimes lacked such basic information as the Eintrittsdatum. On the basis of this selection procedure 5250 personnel files, out of the 61,340 files at the Center, were selected for this study.

The questionnaire used to establish the social profile of each officer contained the following questions:

#### I. SS Career Data: (17)

Joining date.

+Highest rank achieved.

+Branch served in. (Allgemeine SS, A/SS; Sicherheitsdienst, SD; Totenkopfverbände, TV; Verfügungstruppe, VT).

#### II. Personal Data:

Name of officer. (Used only in the detailed description of specially selected case histories).

Date of birth.

Place of birth.

Age. (At time of joining the SS).

Education. (Highest educational level achieved).

Occupation. (Includes father's occupation).

Organizational membership and/or military background prior to joining the SS.

+Family life. (Includes marital status, number of children, political affiliation of the wife, the application of the SS marriage code, and SS morality as demonstrated through case histories, or qualitative data).

The quantitative data were then coded and transferred onto punch cards to be analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

The 14-year time span (1925-1939) under investigation was divided into three major phases. Each phase in turn was divided into two parts. The length of each chronological division was determined by an event, or a series of events, of importance either in the history of the NSDAP or for the development of the SS.

The major phases are:

- Phase I: The Infancy period, April 1925 - December 1930.
- Phase II: The Developmental Period, January 1931 - June 1934.
- Phase III: The Functional Period, July 1934 - September 1939.

The chronological sub-categories are:

- Phase I: 1. April 1925-December 1927,  
2. January 1928-December 1930.
- Phase II: 3. January 1931-January 1933,  
4. February 1933-June 1934.
- Phase III: 5. July 1934-December 1936,  
6. January 1937-September 1939.

#### Phase I: The Infancy Period, April 1925-December 1930

This phase covers the development of the SS from its initial stages in the spring of 1925 to just after the breakthrough of the NSDAP at the polls in September 1930. The first part of Phase I deals exclusively with SS officers who joined prior to December 1927 and, therefore, obtained an SS membership number under 1000. (18) The decision to create a separate category for those who joined the SS in its early days was made when it became clear that these men differed considerably from the later joiners. A closer examination of their personnel files revealed that the early SS men showed more pronounced anti-social tendencies, had greater difficulties in maintaining a stable work history, and generally represented the less respectable segment of society.

The phase was labeled Infancy Phase because it was during the initial years that the basic characteristics of the SS were established. These were: (1) emphasis on racial selectivity of its members, and (2) the adoption of the role of security organization, at first for the Party, later for the regime.

#### Phase II: The Developmental Period, January 1931-June 1934

This phase covers a vital period in the history of National Socialism, namely the final two years of the Weimar Republic, the Machtergreifung, and the pre-Röhm Crisis era of the Third Reich. The Phase ends with the murder of the SA Stabschef and the resultant independence of the SS from SA control.

The phase is called Developmental, since it was during this period that the major branches of the SS were established. The SD had its beginnings in 1931, while the Totenkopfverbände were established soon after Hitler came to power. The beginnings of the Verfügungstruppe can also be traced to the renewed formation of a Stabswache in March 1933, a formation that was later renamed Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler.

#### Phase III: The Functional Period, July 1934-September 1939

This period includes the time of organizational and political developments of the SS from the death of Röhm to the outbreak of

the Second World War. This phase is divided into two parts so that the changes in the social composition of the Führerkorps due to the influx of Austrians and Sudeten Germans after the annexations of their territories can be studied in greater detail.

The period is labeled Functional because it is during these peacetime years that the SS began to function as independent formation.

#### THE AGE FACTOR IN THE SS FÜHRERKORPS

The emphasis on youth in National Socialist propaganda is well known. The leaders proclaimed on many occasions that their party, more than any other, represented "a mission of the younger generation in contrast to the rotten and crumbling world of yesterday". (19) Thus according to National Socialist ideology, youth had right, hope and the future on its side, age only death.

In view of the emphasis which the NSDAP placed on youth, it is not surprising that the SS from its inception tried to attract the younger element in society. As early as 1925, Julius Schreck, the first leader of the newly created Stabswache stated that only men between 23 and 35 need apply to the new elite formation. (20)

The questions which this paper intends to answer are the following: To what extent was the SS able to attract the young? Were there any marked differences in the age distribution within the various branches of the SS? What, if any, age differences in the SS Führerkorps could be detected between 1925 and 1939? To facilitate the study of the age distribution in the sampled Führerkorps, the age range from below 20 to above 60 has been divided into six age groups.

Table 1 shows the age distributions of the German population in 1933, the Nazi party (21), and the Nürnberg SA (22) and compares them to the age distribution of the SS officer corps at the time of the Machtergreifung.

The table reveals that at the time of Hitler's takeover, 31.1% of Germany's population was under the age of 30. Compared to the general population age distribution, 42.7% of the Nazi party was below 30. It was, however, in the para-military Kampforganisationen that youth was most overrepresented. Fifty percent of the SA membership in Nürnberg in 1933 was under 30, while at the same time 58.7% of the SS Führerkorps was born after the turn of the century. The table also shows that, compared to the general population, the 30-39 year old officers were overrepresented in the SS and that the underrepresentation begins at the 40-year mark and increases in the older age groups. This demonstrates that the SS was successful in attracting the younger element in German society.

Table 2 shows the age distributions of the total corps sample and those of the four major branches of the SS: the Allgemeine SS (A/SS); the Totenkopfverbände (TV); the Sicherheitsdienst (SD); and the Verfügungstruppe (VT).

Table 1: Age Distribution of German Population, the NSDAP, the Nürnberg SA, and the SS Officers in 1933

	German Population in 1933	NSDAP in 1933	Nürnberg SA in 1933	SS Führer in 1933
	%	%	%	%
under 20	} 31.1	} 42.7	11.9	11.3
20-29			38.1	47.4
Subtotal	31.1	42.7	50.0	58.8
30-39	22.0	27.2	25.2	27.7
40-49	17.1	17.2	18.6	12.1
Subtotal	39.1	44.4	43.8	39.8
50-59	14.5	9.3	3.6	1.4
60 and over	15.3	3.6	2.6	0.1
Subtotal	29.8	12.9	6.2	1.5

Table 2: Age Distribution for Total Corps Sample, A/SS, TV, SD, and VT

Age Ranges	Total Corps	A/SS	TV	SD	VT
	%	%	%	%	%
under 20	12.5	5.3	12.8	8.3	66.5
20-29	43.5	41.0	37.2	51.9	22.0
Subtotal	56.0	46.3	50.0	60.2	88.5
30-39	28.6	33.4	37.2	25.5	6.4
40-49	12.2	16.0	11.7	11.9	1.5
Subtotal	40.8	49.4	48.9	37.4	7.9
50-59	2.8	3.7	1.1	2.3	3.2
over 59	0.4	0.6	---	0.1	0.4
Subtotal	3.2	4.3	1.1	2.4	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The table shows that considerable variation in the age distributions of the various branches existed. While 56% of the total corps sample was under 30, 46.3% of the A/SS, 50% of the TV, 60% of the SD and an overwhelming 88.5% of the VT had not reached this age. This age distribution shows that the SD and the VT were branches of the SS which appealed most to the younger generation. A closer examination of the SD age distribution reveals, however, that the security service attracted more men between the ages of 20-29 while the new military branch of the SS, the VT, attracted mainly men under the age of 20. In the A/SS and the TV the more mature age groups are overrepresented, while the VT had only 7.9% of its officers in the 30-49 year old range. Once again a closer examination of the A/SS and the TV reveals that the A/SS was overrepresented in both the 30-39 group as well as in the 40-49 age group, while the branch which was responsible for the guarding of the concentration camps attracted more of the 30-39 year olds.

The fact that 4.3% of the A/SS officers were above the age of 50 suggests that this branch was able to attract some of the older men. A closer examination of the 3.6% of the SS Führer in the VT who were above 50 revealed that these men had been former officers who provided the infant military branch of the SS with the much needed military leadership and expertise (23). A Chi-Square test of independence between Age and the Branch joined was significant beyond the .001 level, substantiating the fact that different age groups tended to be attracted to different branches. (24)

The paper so far has shown that in the SS Führerkorps the younger element was overrepresented. It also showed that certain age groups were attracted to certain branches of the SS. The question which will be dealt with at this point is, was there a relationship between the age of the applicant and the period in which he joined the SS? In other words, was there a tendency for younger or older men to join in certain periods of the fourteen-year time span under investigation?

Table 3 shows the distribution of the ages of the officers at the times that they joined the SS.

The table shows that the Führerkorps during Phase I was made up to a large extent of younger men. Almost 75% of the Führer who joined prior to December 1927, the group of men with SS membership numbers under 1000, were under the age of 30 when they joined. (25) Two thirds of those who joined between January 1928 and December 1930 were under 30. The table also reveals that the percentage of under-30 joiners declined steadily for each time period. In the 1937-1939 period only 40% of the joiners who were commissioned fell into that age range. If one takes a closer look at the two age categories which make up the under-30 sub-total, one will notice that the gradual but consistent decline in the under-30 sub-total is due to a reduction in the percentage of joiners in the 20-29 year category. It is of interest to note that the percentage of under-20 joiners fluctuated very little between 1925 and 1939. These results indicate that regardless of the political situation in Germany a remarkably constant percentage of the very young was attracted to the Black Order.



Table 3: Distribution of Joining Ages of the Führer over the Six Time Periods

Age Ranges	Phase I		Phase II		Phase III	
	1/25	1/28	1/31	2/33	7/34	1/37
	-12/27	-12/30	-1/33	-6/34	-12/36	-9/39
	%	%	%	%	%	%
under 20	11.5	13.7	11.9	11.3	13.9	13.8
20-29	63.1	52.7	48.7	47.3	35.6	26.2
Subtotal	74.6	66.4	60.6	58.6	49.5	40.0
30-39	18.0	24.9	30.2	27.7	29.5	30.3
40-49	6.6	7.3	7.7	12.1	14.5	21.5
Subtotal	24.6	32.2	37.9	39.8	44.0	51.8
50-59	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.4	5.3	6.7
over 59	---	---	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.5
Subtotal	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.5	6.5	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The second sub-total, which includes the 30-39 and 40-49 age categories, shows the reverse trend. Whereas only 24.6% of the very early joiners were between 30 and 49, 51.8% of the Führer that joined the SS during the last two years prior to the Second World War fell into this age bracket. A closer look at the more mature age group shows that the constant increase in the second sub-total is partly due to an increase in the 30-39 year old group, and after January 1933 reflects the sudden increase in applicants between the ages of 40 to 49. It is this age bracket that is responsible for the increase from 7.7% in the 1931-1933 period to 12.1% of the applicants in the immediate post-Machtergreifung period. While the over-50 Führer comprise only 3.3% of the total corps sample, it is of interest to note that these men came into the SS mainly after the elimination of Roehm. This suggests that the older segment of society waited until Hitler had dealt with the Roehm issue before committing itself to join the new regime's elite formation.

A Chi-Square test of independence between Phases and Age Ranges was significant beyond the .001 level. This substantiates the fact that different age groups joined at different times during the 1925 to 1939 period. (26)

### THE EDUCATION OF THE SS OFFICERS

As long as one could look upon the members of the SS as "Nicht-erfolgreiche, ...Minderbegabte ... und sozial gescheiterte Existenzen" (27) it was easy to rationalize that it was the flotsam of society that was attracted to this notorious organization. In describing the members of the SS in precisely these terms, Kogon inadvertently provided post-war Germany with an alibi. It was so easy to label the men who wore the black uniform as "gescheiterte Existenzen" and to believe that no one from the respectable German Mittelstand could have committed the crimes the SS did.

But was the SS composed primarily of social misfits and "gescheiterte Existenzen"? Scholars such as Neusüss-Hunkel and Koehl have presented us with a somewhat more differentiated picture of the SS, but hitherto no study has dealt with the socio-economic background of the SS in a precise manner.

The educational background of the sampled Führerkorps will be looked at in greater detail. The education of the sampled Führer was categorized according to the traditional progression in the German educational system:

1. Elementary School. This category included all those officers who had completed an elementary school education. Trades training was not taken into account.
2. Secondary School. Included in this category were all officers who went beyond elementary school, i.e., Mittelschule, Oberschule, but who did not obtain an Abitur.
3. Abitur.
4. Attended University. For all officers who attended a university but never completed a recognized course of study.
5. Graduated University. For all officers who held a Diplom or Staatsexamen.
6. Doctorates.
7. Napola. It is in this category that the young graduates from the special National Socialist schools were collected.

Table 4 shows the educational distribution of the total corps sample, the A/SS, the TV, the SD, and the VT.

The table shows that 29% of the sampled Führerkorps had only an elementary school education, and that 56% of the officers were without the coveted Abitur. Almost 9% gave the Abitur as the highest educational level achieved, while a further 4% attended a university but never obtained a degree. In the university graduate category one finds that 12% of the sampled Führer had either a Diplom or Staatsexamen, while a surprising 18% held a doctorate. This shows that 30% of the sampled Führerkorps were university graduates. In view of the fact that only 2-3% of the German population has completed university (28), it is clearly demonstrated that the educated segment of society was considerably overrepresented in the SS officer corps.

Table 4: Education of SS Officers in Relation to the Branches in which they Served

Education	Corps Sample %	A/SS %	TV %	SD %	VT %
Elementary School	28.9	30.2	43.4	24.3	17.7
Secondary School	27.3	22.3	28.9	26.4	32.4
Total					
Non-Abitur	56.2	52.5	72.3	50.7	50.1
Abitur	8.9	5.9	3.3	6.6	34.6
Attended University	4.4	3.7	1.1	5.8	5.6
Graduated University	11.8	13.4	4.4	16.7	0.4
Doctorates	18.3	24.5	18.9	20.2	1.7
Total Univers. Graduates	30.1	37.9	23.3	36.9	2.1
Napola	0.4	---	---	---	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4 also reveals that considerable differences existed in the educational levels of the officers serving in the various branches. For example, 43.4% of the officers in the notorious TV had no more than an elementary school education. The TV also had the highest percentage of non-Abitur officers of any branch. These findings tend to substantiate Benedict Kautsky's description of the KL Wachmannschaften as "den stumpfsten und faulsten Teil der Bevölkerung". (29) It is of interest to note that the small percentage of officers with degrees in the TV had degrees in medicine, biochemistry, physiology, or pharmacology. This suggests that the only degree officers that were attracted to the TV had degrees in disciplines which were of use in the various experimental programs conducted on human beings in the vast KL system. The SD and the VT had the smallest percentage of non-Abitur officers.

Compared to the total corps sample, university graduates were overrepresented in the A/SS and the SD. This distribution tends to support the previously held views that the SD became "the refuge for National Socialism's most intelligent men" (30), while the A/SS was able to attract "die gute Gesellschaft". (31)

An examination of the officers' education in relation to the time periods in which they joined reveals a distinct pattern. Table 5 demonstrates that the non-Abitur officer predominated the Führerkorps prior to January 1933.

**Table 5:** Educational Level of SS Officers in Relation to the Time Period in which they Joined

Educational Level	Phase I		Phase II		Phase III	
	4/25 -12/27	1/28 -12/30	1/31 -1/33	2/33 -6/34	7/34 -12/36	1/37 -9/39
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Elementary School	62.3	49.1	37.9	17.4	22.4	22.5
Secondary School	29.5	33.6	33.8	24.5	22.0	21.7
Total Non-Abitur	91.8	82.7	71.7	41.9	44.4	44.2
Abitur	4.1	2.4	5.8	9.2	15.8	14.4
Attended University	0.8	2.6	4.3	4.8	5.1	4.7
Graduated University	3.3	7.0	9.2	16.4	13.9	10.4
Doctorates	---	5.3	9.0	27.7	20.2	24.2
Total University Graduates	3.3	12.3	18.2	44.1	34.1	34.6
Napola	---	---	---	---	0.6	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

While the percentage of non-Abitur officers dropped from 92% in the 1925-1927 period, to almost 72% in the 1931-1933 period, it is in the immediate post-Machtergreifung period that the most noticeable drop occurred. For the 1933-1934 period the percentage of non-Abitur officers drops to almost 42%, a drop of 30% from the previous period. After this initial and dramatic drop, the percentage of non-Abitur officers levels off at the 40% level.

Equally dramatic fluctuations can be noticed in the university graduate categories. Prior to Hitler's seizure of power, the percentage of university educated officers in the SS was low. For the 1931-1933 period 18.2% of the joiners had a completed university education. The most dramatic increase took place after 30 January 1933. In the 1933-1934 period 44% of the joiners were university graduates. In the doctorate category the increase is even more noticeable. After Hitler's seizure of power the percentage of joiners with a doctorate rose from 9% to almost 28%. As with the non-Abitur officers, so with their more educated colleagues, the percentage of university graduates levels off, and remains rather constant during Phase III.

## SUMMARY

An examination of the age and education of the 5250 sampled SS Führer revealed that, not only were there detectable differences in the officers who joined the various branches of the SS, but that age and education were also important factors in the evolution of the Führerkorps. Noticeable differences were found among the branches of the SS in terms of age and the achieved educational level of the officers. In the A/SS the older age groups and the more educated men were overrepresented, while the concentration camp guard units were officered largely by men whose education was at the lower end of the spectrum. The SD also attracted a high percentage of university educated men, however, the men who joined the SD differed from those who joined the A/SS in terms of age. The SD attracted younger men. This suggests that the SD was composed to a large extent of recent university graduates eager to make a career in the SS. Not surprisingly the military branch of the SS, the VT, attracted the youngest element in society. It is, however, interesting to note that in spite of the Verfügungstruppe's de-emphasis of education in favour of political reliability and physical stamina, a large percentage of the VT officer applicants had the traditional acceptable education for officer selection, the Abitur.

In chronological terms it was seen that the less educated and younger element in society tended to join the SS during Phase I. It was the Machtergreifung which was the most influential event affecting the joining pattern of the sampled Führer. Shortly after Hitler's take-over, the university educated segment of society joined the SS. The Post-1933 joiners also tended to be older men, which suggests that it was in the second half of Phase II and during Phase III that the established element in German society joined the elite formation of National Socialism.

One the basis of these quantitative findings, one can no longer view the SS as a homogeneous group, but must accept the fact that different types of men were attracted to different branches at different stages in the evolution of the Black Order.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 This paper is based on this author's study entitled, A Socio-graphy of the SS Officer Corps, 1925-1939, Ph.D. dissertation, University of London 1977, 262pp.
- 2 Kogon, Eugen, Der SS-Staat: Das System der deutschen Konzentrationslager, Kindler edition, München 1974, p.21.
- 3 Himmler, Heinrich, Die Schutzstaffel als antibolschewistische Kampforganisation, München 1936, p.29.
- 4 Kogon, Der SS-Staat, p.346.
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- 7 Koehl, Robert, The Character of the Nazi SS, in: The Journal of Modern History, No. 3, September 1962, p.281
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Höhne, Heinz, Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf: Die Geschichte der SS, Gütersloh 1967, p.127.
- 10 Ibid., p.128.
- 11 Ibid., p.196-97; see also, Neusüss-Hunkel, Die SS. p.23.
- 12 Höhne, Der Orden, p.189; see also, Kautsky, Benedict, Teufel und Verdammte, Zürich 1946, p.91.
- 13 Himmler's speech to the officers of the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler in Metz on 7 September 1940, Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal, 42 vols., Nürnberg 1947, vol. xxix, doc. 1918-PS, p.107.
- 14 Reitlinger, Gerald, The SS: Alibi of a Nation, 1922-1945, New York 1968, p.86; see also, Höhne, Der Orden, p.128, 412ff.
- 15 Neusüss-Hunkel, Die SS, p.15; see also, Höhne, Der Orden, p.127.
- 16 The BDC houses 238,000 RuSHA files. A RuSHA file was the racial clearance file of the SS officers and their wives.
- 17 Items marked with an + pertain to the SS officers' entire SS careers.
- 18 The cut-off date is based on a letter from SS Obergruppenführer Herff, head of the SS Personalhauptamt, in which he stated, "In der SS wurden die SS Nummern 850-1050 in der Zeit vom 1.1.1927 bis 31.12.1927 verliehen". Letter to SS Brigadeführer Christian Weber, found in Weber's personnel file.
- 19 Fest, Joachim, The Face of the Third Reich, translated from the German by Michael Bullock, London 1972, p.332.
- 20 Höhne, Der Orden, p.28.
- 21 The age distribution of the German population in 1933 is from Merkl, Peter, Political Violence under the Swastika: 581 Early Nazis, Princeton 1975, p.12-13.
- 22 The age distribution of the Nürnberg SA is from Reiche, Eric, Social Structure of the Nürnberg SA, 1922-1934, in a paper presented at the Dusquesne History Forum, 21 October 1977. The paper was based on Reiche, Ph.D. dissertation, Delaware 1972, 294pp.
- 23 An example would be Lieutenant-General Paul Hausser, who at the age of 54 joined the Verfügungstruppe. Personnel File: SS Oberstgruppenführer Paul Hausser, SS# 239,795, born 7.10.1880, in Brandenburg a.d. Havel. BDC.
- 24 The value of the Chi Square with 6 degrees of freedom was 127.52.
- 25 Orlov in his study of the Nazi Party discovered that 66% of the NSDAP membership in 1925 was under 30 years of age. Orlov, Dietrich, The History of the Nazi Party, 1919-1945, 2 vols., Pittsburgh 1973, vol. 1, p.56.

- 26 The value of the Chi Square with 4 degrees of freedom was 229.41.
- 27 Kogon, Der SS-Staat, p.28.
- 28 Dahrendorf, Rolf, Gesellschaft und Demokratie in Deutschland, Stuttgart 1956, p.97.
- 29 Kautsky, Teufel und Verdammte, p.91.
- 30 Höhne, Der Orden, p.211.
- 31 Neusüss-Hunkel, Die SS, p.15.

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